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Serial: N 0458

6 FEB 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
 (ATTN: General G. B. Erskine, USMC-Ret,  
 Assistant to the Secretary of Defense,  
 Special Operations)

SUBJECT: Conduct of Direct Support ELINT Activities ~~(S)~~

1. Reference is made to memorandum to the Joint Chiefs of Staff from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, subject "ELINT Activities Conducted by Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands (U)", dated 1 July 1960.

2. With respect to the last paragraph of this memorandum, it is the understanding of this Agency that the "cryptologic agency participation" referred to is a further expression of the requirement for the Director, NSA to furnish technical guidance and support as prescribed in Section IV B j of DOD Directive S-3115.2 dated 19 March 1959. Based on this understanding the following assumptions have been developed:

a. That this participation may be effected through various media; the selection of any one or combination of several to be employed would be at the discretion of the Director, NSA. These media could consist of (1) the direct participation of technicians of the cryptologic agencies under cryptologic direction in the theater ELINT centers, (2) formal liaison with the centers, or (3) the provision by the Director, NSA of technical guidance and technical support to the centers as required.

b. That any signals analysis activities performed by the centers would be confined to ELINT signals collected by direct support activities and of direct support interest.

c. That no ELINT missions other than those performed for theater Direct Support purposes would be performed by the center unless specifically requested by the Director, NSA.

3. It is requested that this Agency be advised of the validity of the foregoing understandings and assumptions.

L. H. FROST  
 Vice Admiral, USN  
 Director

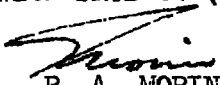
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cc: DIR  
AG  
Reading File  
PROD-04  
OPS

M/R: On 11 April 1960, JCS sent a memorandum (JCSM-147-60) to SECDEF requesting approval of a list of ELINT activities providing support to commanders of unified and specified commands. In approving these activities on 1 July 1960, Deputy Secretary Douglas stated "Another area requiring close scrutiny is the theater ELINT centers. It is requested that you take any actions necessary to develop or establish effective ELINT centers where cryptologic agencies and command components would participate." On 7 December 1960, JCS sent a message to CINCEUR and CINCPAC citing Mr. Douglas' statement and requesting these commander's proposals for center which would be responsible to this requirement. CINCEUR proceeded to establish such a center and invited cryptologic agency participation. CINCPAC in consultation with NSAPAC HAW undertook to draft its plans. In view of the actions taken by the theater commanders, the Chiefs of NSAPAC and NSAEUR requested NSA guidance as to type and scope of cryptologic participation. Requested guidance has been furnished based on our interpretation of the Douglas statement. It is considered necessary at this time to request clarification of the intent of the statement to preclude misinterpretations by apologists of the various departments, agencies and commands concerned.

Coordinated with PROD-04 (Cdr McGinnis and Mr. Lowman). PROD-05 (Mr Zaslow).

  
R. A. MORIN/OPS/3939s/25 Jan 61/cj

M/R ADDENDUM: Rewritten at the request of D/DIR.

  
Lt Col Burn/OPS/11501/jc 2 Feb